

**Quarterly Report**  
**African Burial Ground Project**  
**Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement**

**June 30, 2005**

This report covers events surrounding the African Burial Ground (ABG) Project for the period of April 1 through June 30, 2005.

**Introduction**

The activities for this reporting period include ongoing work to complete the technical reports and the continuing coordination regarding the Exterior Memorial and Interpretive Center for the site. A brief list of meetings, telephone conferences, etc., held during this reporting period is provided as Appendix A.

**Activities of the Reporting Period**

**Education/Outreach (OPEI)**

During this period, the OPEI presented site tours, film showings, and information sessions to a total of 4,198 individuals (449 individuals at the 290 Broadway Information Desk, 3,749 members of 63 organizations, and 21 researchers with over 5 hours in the Reading Room at 201 Varick Street). The OPEI responded to 813 telephone calls for information and requests for services. The OPEI also distributed educational materials (educational portfolios, newsletters, bookmarks, press kits, art work brochures etc.) as detailed below:

	<b><u>No. of Presentations to Organizations</u></b>	<b><u>No. of Individuals in these Organizations</u></b>	<b><u>No. of Individuals at 290 Info. Desk</u></b>	<b><u>No. of Researchers at OPEI Reading Rm.</u></b>	<b><u>Total No. of Individuals</u></b>
<b>April</b>	14	366	237	11	614
<b>May</b>	22	1579	101	6	1,686
<b>June</b>	<u>27</u>	<u>1783</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1,898</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	63	3,728	49	21	4,198

**Materials Distribution Summary:**

	<b><u>Educational Portfolios</u></b>	<b><u>OPEI Services Brochures</u></b>	<b><u>Commemorative Art Brochures</u></b>	<b><u>Update Newsletters</u></b>	<b><u>Bookmarks</u></b>
<b><u>April</u></b>					
Org. Members	753	1919	4,740	7	2,392
290 Info. Desk	150	6	222	0	1,284
<b><u>May</u></b>					
Org. Members	1,186	1,786	7,116	2	2,254
290 Info. Desk	83	10	263	0	74

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**June**

Org. Members	1050	1650	5,789	9	2,329
290 Info. Desk	<u>82</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>463</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>29</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	3,304	5,383	18,593	18	8,362

There were 140 press releases, 19 media requests and 8 press kits distributed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

**April Highlights**

**Volunteer Training** @ Jack & Jill, Inc., Queens, New York: 20 people in attendance; Materials distributed.

**May Highlights**

**Historical Hudson Valley Award Ceremony** Tarrytown, New York: Dr. Sherrill D. Wilson received the African American Heritage Award; 65 people in attendance; 100 Educational Portfolios were distributed.

**OPEI Film Festival** 290 Broadway, New York, New York: 109 people in attendance; materials distributed included 100 Educational Portfolios and 200 Agendas.

**Capetown South African District Six Conference**, Capetown, South Africa: Dr. Wilson delivered a presentation on the NY African Burial Ground; 120 attendees. Materials distributed included 100 Educational Portfolios, 75 bookmarks, 75 2003 reburial brochures, 25 classroom study guides and 200 Agendas

**June Highlights**

**8<sup>th</sup> Intergenerational Festival**, Brooklyn, New York: 300 people in attendance; Materials distributed at information table included 273 Educational Portfolios, 50 Volunteer flyers, 100 OPEI brochures, and 150 Bookmarks.

**The Juneteenth Committee of New York, Juneteenth-Kingfest Celebration , “Ethnic Excellence Within The African-American Family”** Harlem, New York: 500 people in attendance; materials distributed at information tables included 300 Educational Portfolios; 500 OPEI brochures; 500 Map of Burial Ground; 500 Volunteer flyers; 500 Educators flyers 500 Quiz sheets; 500 Saturday event flyers

**Borough President, C. Virginia Fields Annual History Award Ceremony**, Museum Of The City Of New York, New York, New York: Dr. Sherrill D. Wilson received the History Visionary Award; 45 People in attendance

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**OPEI Open House** 201 Varick Street, New York: 25 people in attendance; materials distributed included 20 Educational Portfolios and 160 Event Flyers.

**Interpretive Center (NPS)**

The NPS continued to develop the draft report, **Management Recommendations for the African Burial Ground**, which will include management alternatives and an interpretation plan. The draft of this report will be available to the public for comment late Summer 2005.

**Exterior Memorial (NPS)**

On April 29, 2005, GSA formerly announced that Rodney Leon was selected as the designer for the African Burial Ground permanent memorial. Leon's design, "Ancestral Libation Chamber", was created to both define the location of the reinterment has taken place and to acknowledge the site as a sacred space where Africans are currently buried. The design incorporates seven elements that memorialize the reinterment, provide sacred space for contemplation and reflection, and serve as space for public cultural ceremonies. The design can be viewed at the project website, [africanburialground.gov](http://africanburialground.gov). A kick-off meeting to develop a schedule for the construction of the memorial was held on May 13, 2005. It is anticipated that the memorial will be completed in 2006, with the groundbreaking to be held in October 2005.

**Technical Studies (Corps/Howard University)**

Howard University has been delayed in the completion of the Archaeology Report and is reworking the schedule for completion with Dr. Jean Howson and Dr. Warren Perry, co-authors of the report. A meeting was held on June 28, 2005 between Howard University and Drs. Howson and Perry to develop a list of tasks and timeline for completion. The results of this meeting will be finalized and coordinated with the Corps/GSA in the next quarter.

Howard University and Howard University Press reviewed the revised draft scope and schedule provided by the Corps/GSA for the Integrated and General Audience Reports and the printing of the technical reports. Howard University is revising their proposal to address the changes.

**Archives Project (Corps)**

During this period, processing continued on the MCX Project Files Record Group and the Cobb Laboratory Record Group. All of the paper materials in the Cobb Laboratory has been repackaged, labeled, and arranged, as has the paper materials for the MCX Record Group. Finding aids have been drafted for both of these record groups. The processing of the photographic materials continues, including the creation of a database to organize the information from the photographs. The database has been designed and is being tested.

A memo was drafted and sent out with recommendations for the disposition of the OPEI record group and a letter was drafted to John Milner and Associates to arrange for the transfer of the

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materials currently held in West Chester, PA and Alexandria, VA. Efforts continue on the development of the curation agreement with the Schomburg Center.

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**Appendix A**

**Timeline of Meetings and Telephone Conferences conducted by the ABG Project Team**

**April 1 – June 30, 2005**

April 10, 2005	OPEI Volunteer Training, Jack & Jill, Inc., Queens, New York
April 29, 2005	Announcement of Memorial Design Selection, GSA
May 12, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
May 13, 2005	Exterior Memorial kick-off meeting, GSA, New York
May 15, 2005	Historical Hudson Valley Award Ceremony, Tarrytown, New York Honoring Dr. Sherrill D. Wilson, OPEI
May 21, 2005	OPEI Film Festival, 290 Broadway, New York, New York
May 26, 2005	Capetown South African District Six Conference, Capetown, South Africa, African Burial Ground presentation by Dr. Sherrill D. Wilson, OPEI
June 17, 2005	8 <sup>th</sup> Intergenerational Festival, Brooklyn, New York, OPEI Information Table
June 18, 2005	The Juneteenth Committee of New York, Juneteenth-Kingfest Celebration “Ethnic Excellence Within The African-American Family”, Harlem, New York, OPEI Information Table
June 22, 2005	Borough President, C. Virginia Fields Annual History Award Ceremony Museum Of The City Of New York, New York, New York honoring Dr. Wilson, OPEI
June 23, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
June 25, 2005	OPEI Open to the Public, 201 Varick Street, New York, New York.
June 28, 2005	Howard University and Archaeology Team meeting, New York, New York